

News from the Berlin Conference features the word - "slight". Slightly optimistic, that is.

Today, the Foreign Ministers held a secret session, which lasted for two hours. Subject - the Far Eastern problems, Korea and Indo China. There is no official word, of course, about what went on, but informed sources declare that the Foreign Ministers made "some slight progress".

Messrs Eden, Bidault and Dulles will gather again ~~xx~~ on Wednesday morning, trying to reach an agreement. Those informed sources add that the chances of a settlement on the Far East are "slightly better".

The Western Foreign Ministers are proposing a conference on the Far East, to be held in Switzerland, ^{at} Geneva -- with Red China joining the discussions. Molotov agrees, ~~xx~~ but he wants Red China recognized as a major power, sitting in as a partner. Which would, in effect, recognize the Peiping government as a full scale member of a - Big Five.

Thus far the West concedes merely - that the Chinese Reds shall be invited. The big problem, we hear, is to find a formula under which neither the West, nor Soviet Russia would suffer a diplomatic defeat.

Red China to be let in - but just how?

A later dispatch states that ^(British) ~~Buxton~~ ^{(Foreign} Secretary, Anthony Eden, today, informed Molotov that the London government will reject any Soviet attempt to break up the western alliance. And added - that the Russian plan for European "security" is merely aimed at that goal. Moscow - trying to get the United States out of western European affairs, as a preliminary to Soviet domination.

This was followed by a new western proposal for a settlement in Europe. French Foreign Minister Bidault offered Soviet Russia a plan under which the present situation in Europe would be recognized. Meaning - that the Soviets would keep what they have.

The various countries, eastern and western - to work in harmony, while retaining their existing alliances.

INDO CHINA

In Indo China, the French Union forces report a couple of sharp victories in front of Luang Prabang, the "City of one hundred pagodas". Two parties of Reds were threatening to cut around, for an encirclement of the royal capital ^{of the} Kingdom of Laos. One force got across ^{the} Mekong River, floating across on rafts. They were attacked in a sudden stroke - French troops attacking with artillery and mortar fire. The communists - hurled back. The same thing happened to another force of rebels ~~six~~ miles north of Luang Prabang.

The French command says, however, that enemy tactics of infiltration and encirclement may be repeated - and could be dangerous.

CONFESSIONS

The Marine Corps is beginning the formal proceedings concerning "confessions" made by American prisoners of war. Tomorrow, they start an investigation of the case ~~in~~ of Colonel Frank Schwable, who made one of those "confessions" admitting germ warfare. The Colonel was Chief of Staff of the First Marine Aircraft Wing- the highest Marine Corps officer captured by the Reds. He says he broke under torture inflicted by the Communists.

It is made clear that the inquiry will take full note of those Red barbarities which caused prisoners to weaken. But, at the same time, questions of loyalty and courage must be considered. General Lemuel Shepherd, commandant of the Marine Corps, states: "The ultimate aim is to make clear that the Corps does not condone cowardice or treasonable acts on the part of its personnel."

The inhuman tactics of the Communists in Korea introduced a new element into warfare, and the investigations made of those "confessions" will set a historic precedent.

SECURITY

The Treasury Department reveals that last year, one hundred ^{and} ~~thirty~~ ^{— hold overs from the previous} members were dismissed as "security risks". ~~Of these, only~~ ^{Four} ~~were~~ accused of disloyalty. The others ~~were~~ "security risks" for different reasons. ~~The great majority of the dismissals were~~ ~~not~~ ordered under the loyalty-security program established by former President Truman.

Admission

~~This information was passed along to a congressional committee, following Democratic demands for full information.~~

There have been twenty-two hundred dismissals by the Eisenhower administration, and the Democrats want to know - how many involved actual ~~disloyalty~~ disloyalty.

The administration is said to be preparing a report - and, in the meanwhile, some figures are being released, pertaining to individual departments of the government. Like the one from the Treasury - today.

DIVE

A new record for a deep dive has been made -- off the coast of Africa. Two French officers descending two and one-half miles - thirteen thousand one hundred sixty-three feet. Which breaks the previous record set, last autumn, by Professor Auguste Piccard and his son, in the Mediterranean. This latest plunge into the ocean - nearly three thousand feet farther down.

Off the coast of West Africa, ^{a short way} ~~one hundred~~ ^{out} ~~twenty feet~~ from the port of Dakar, there is a great ~~xx~~ canyon at the bottom of the South Atlantic. A chasm in the floor of the sea. And into this the two French Navy men descended - a Lieutenant Commander and an engineer. (They were in a bathyscape, sort of diving mechanism shaped like a fish.

Today's dispatch says they brought back scientific data which will take several days to interpret. Facts and figures about the black world in that abyss off the West Coast of Africa.

URANIUM

You have all either heard or read of the uranium boom in four western states, a wide area west of the Rockies, mainly in Colorado, Utah, and extending ~~xxx~~ down into New Mexico and Arizona. But unless you come out and get right in the middle of it -- well, it may seem as remote as though it's on another planet.

Alta, Utah, where I've been for some time has just been closed off by tremendous snows that are sweeping all over this western country. I got away just in time to keep from being trapped by avalanches at Alta. Well, in driving to Aspen, Colorado, where I am tonight, I passed through uranium country, and over the weekend I stopped off in Grand Junction, the uranium metropolis, in case you hadn't heard.

Four years ago I was all through this region with two famous mining engineers Blair Burwell, and Harold Worcester. At that time, based on what they told me, I predicted a big uranium boom. Many, including government officials poo-pooed it. But, it's here. As big as all the western gold rushes all

rolled together.

After leaving Salt Lake you first get the feeling of the uranium boom when you enter the country of mesas and canyons and weird rock formations, in eastern Utah.

When I got to Grand Junction, Colorado, I looked up C. E. Poister, a conservative financial man whom I knew had been ~~xxx~~ associated with some of my Colorado mining friends, and he has ~~xx~~ just brought me up-to-date on the uranium situation. How the Atomic Energy Commission now has its major production headquarters at Grand Junction, with hundreds of employees.

How the number of uranium prospectors has multiplied until today they are in the thousands. How many of major financial interests have recently come in and already have found uranium or are digging for it, such as the Homestake people, from Lead, South Dakota - that's the richest gold mine in the world. And Hunt of Texas, the fabulous oil millionaire.

And Anaconda Copper. Also Frazer formerly of Kaiser Frazer. And Bob Young, the railroad financier who is now trying to get control of the New York Central - and many others.

For that matter the first man I met when I got into Grand Junction was a gold miner from where I used to live, the Cripple Creek District. When Herman Conrow came back from World War Two, he went to work as a ^{leaser} ~~miner~~ on the Portland, where Jack Dempsey and I and a few thousand more of us worked long ago. In no time at all, he picked up twenty-five thousand bucks in gold. Whereupon he packed up his family and headed for the uranium country, of ~~which~~ southwestern Colorado. He has a lot of claims and says he'll soon run his gold stake up to a million.

On all sides you hear stories, like the one about Vernon Pick. Pick, ~~was~~ a young chap in business in Minneapolis, was wiped out in a fire. Hearing about the uranium rush he headed this way. Instead of going around with the Geiger Counter, staking

claims wherever he found a trace of uranium, he played it canny, and waited until he found an area where he was sure he had a rich deposit. In a short time he became one of ~~xx~~ the new uranium millionaires.

Have you heard about Charlie Steen? He's a young Texas geologist who has gotten more publicity than most of the other prospectors. Some say his uranium stake should be worth around a hundred million.

But don't come hunting for uranium if you are broke. Mining Engineer Norman Ebbley, whom I knew as manager of the fabulous Camp Bird Mine at Ouray Colorado, is now in uranium, and he tells me that most of the ~~xxx~~ outcrops have been found, and now to locate a rich deposit you have to have diamond drills, and go down hundreds of feet.

At any rate, that prophecy was right. This looks like the biggest boom in the history of our West, as Burwell puts it, greater than the gold rush of Forty-Nine in California, the rush to the Klondike and the stampede to Cripple Creek, all rolled together.

LINDBERGH

A dispatch from Washington tells about General Charles A. Lindbergh. That's right - General! The Lone Eagle was famous for years as Colonel Lindbergh - and now President Eisenhower has named him Brigadier General.

The story of Lindbergh's military rank is dramatic. When he made his famous trans-Atlantic flight, solo to Paris, he was a mere mail pilot. When he returned, a world hero, the Air Force made him a Colonel. But then came the time when Lindbergh opposed the war policy of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

That caused resentment in Washington, ^{on the part of F.D.R. and others,} and his military rank was cancelled. ^{supposedly} Lindbergh was not permitted to

play any part in the Second World War. But he did

^{He did it on the G.I. - as a civilian air expert,} serve his country. [^] Even flew on combat missions -

~~though it was in secret, as a fighter pilot, all~~
~~pretty much a secret.~~

~~So~~ Now President Eisenhower reverses those measures of resentment, and makes Charles A. Lindbergh a Brigadier General in the Air Force Reserve.

CONVICT

The Illinois State Prison has lost the convict - who did so much to make prison life beautiful. Hard to think of beauty - in a penitentiary. But Herbert Spring won honors for the cultivation of gardens - with a wealth of plants and flowers.

Herb. Spring

He spent forty-six years in the Joliet, *Illinois*

state prison - ~~given a~~ life sentence for murder back in 1907,

~~Nineteen Hundred and Seven.~~ During his early years,

~~he was a~~ bad actor *-- he made* desperate escape attempts

in Nineteen Nineteen and Nineteen Twenty. But then

the "lifer" ~~settled down to whatever contentment could~~

~~be had in prison life.~~

He was put in charge of the prison gardens.

These ~~and these~~ became his only concern. *In fact he* laid out

flower beds with ~~xxx~~ such skill - they attracted

attention in the world of gardening. The flowers at

~~in~~ the Illinois State Prison became famous among those

who fancy roses, violets, peonies and daffodils.

One of the admirers of the prison gard^ener

at Joliet was Ross Kimball - way up in Alaska. Ross

Kimball is a contractor who has a greenhouse at Fairbanks - and he began a campaign to procure the release of Herbert Spring, now sixty-seven years old. He offered to give him a job in Alaska as an expert on flowers.

So today the prison gardener walked out, a free man - on his way to gardens in Alaska.

And we are on our way, via the air waves - to Mike Fitzmaurice, in N.Y.